

## Contributions

### PERSONNEL OF THE LATER CALIFORNIA MINISTRY

MARTIN SHIVELY

While it is true that the Bible-alone cause has not prospered in this great state, as it has in many of the eastern states, it has only had the experience common to all faiths on the Pacific coast. However, since the beginning of the work here, the cause near and dear to us, has had not a few earnest and able advocates. They have always been, even as they now are, entirely too few in numbers to reach out over much territory. If means could only be supplied to keep a hundred evangelists in the field, the doctrines now new to the masses of California would not only be heard, but win many adherents to the faith of the fathers. Among those whose voices have here proclaimed the truth, there have been some whose labors in this field were but transient, but others have unfurled the gospel banner, and stood by it until death called them from duty to reward. Their graves are near us, and the presence of their dust, somehow gives us strength to push on toward the conquest of sin. Some of these have departed from earth years ago, but their work has not perished, and though dead, they yet speak.

Our worthy and beloved Brother Holsinger made three visits to this coast. He came first in 1883, and conducted the annual camp meeting, remaining and preaching in all about six weeks in the various congregations within reach. He came again in 1887, and remained about a year, during which time he was pastor of the church here at Lathrop for nine months. He came yet again in 1893, and for two years lived at Rosena, San Jose and Michigan Bar. He assisted some at the camp meetings during this time, but enfeebled health forbade much exercise in the ministry. He is lovingly remembered by all who knew him here, and all rejoice with him in success or sympathize with him in misfortune. No man is more highly esteemed by our California Brethren than he.

Brother J. W. Beer, whom all the church knows, by reputation at least, came to California in 1885, becoming pastor of the Lathrop church in which capacity he labored for two years. From Lathrop he moved to Altamont, on the summit of the Coast Range Mountains, where by his labors, assisted by others, a thriving congregation was established. It has since gone into decay on account of the removal of practically all of its members to other points. Brother B. has also left the place, and has lived for several years in the city of Vernalis. Failing health has almost entirely retired him from the active minis-

try. In our imperfect understanding of things, we ask "Why must such minds as that with which our brother is blessed, be prevented from full exercise in the high calling in which he delights?" Only silence answers our query. Let us believe that even in misfortune, or that which seems so to us, there is still something for us to do, and that the seeming troubles will only qualify us to fulfil our mission more perfectly. I am glad to be able to say that for some time past, Brother B's. health has been slowly but steadily improving, and we hope that even though his years are growing heavier upon him, his voice may again be heard proclaiming the truth which is so great a comfort to his soul.

P. S. Garman, a man of far more than ordinary ability, came first to California in 1873, an elder in the G. B. church, over whose interests he was placed after annual meeting divided the church here. He remained in this valley for some years, then went back to Missouri, his former home. In 1893 he returned to California as a Brethren preacher, having severed his connection with the G. B. people some time before. He was at once appointed as State Evangelist in which capacity he labored faithfully and successfully for a year, after which, on account of a sprained ankle, he suffered the loss of a foot by amputation, and was by this misfortune compelled to abandon the active ministry for a time. By Sept. 1, 1896, he had so far recovered as to be able for work again, and for several months he preached regularly at Vernalis, Chaparral and Bell Pass. He left the state last spring, going to his family at Kissime, Fla., and later, to some point in Tennessee. A report has reached us that he has returned to the G. B. church. Whether true or not, we hope he will continue to preach the whole gospel and nothing but that, and in consistency go on until the kind Father says "It is enough."

Geo. Brockwell, an Englishman, was baptized by brother Jonathan Myers, and was elected to the ministry in 1871. He spent some years in San Francisco, where he preached regularly on the street, for which work he was peculiarly qualified being of ready speech, having an answer for every question asked, or any remark which might be made in his street crowd. As time went on he gathered a considerable band of workers about him. They have, however, become scattered, and there is no organization now in the city. Troublesome experiences at last discouraged him, and he gave up the work, going to southern California, but is not exercising his peculiar gift.

Richard Plummer was baptized in San Francisco, by Brother Brockwell in 1880, and a year later entered the ministry. He was then a young man of 27, and full

of enthusiasm, making a visit to his old Wisconsin home, solely for the purpose of telling how great things God had done for him. His mother, a widow, and her children, came later to California and he led almost the entire family into baptismal waters. For two years he preached here and there, and then the Lord took him and his earthly work was done.

Brother John Nicholson came from Iowa to Rosena in 1892, having been led into the step by M. M. Eshelman, who was then booming Rosena as a Brethren colony. The scheme failed, because it was impossible to get a good title to the land, but Brethren Holsinger and Nicholson, Sisters Albaugh and Showalter, had been led into the trouble before they were aware of it. The colony stopped growing at once, and they alone were on the ground. It was an unfortunate step for all of them, but Brother N. in his old age has done what he could to hold the fort. He is not able to do much, but regular services have been kept since his arrival. He has been a successful worker in the years gone by, but age and its infirmities are hurrying this grand old soldier of the cross toward heaven and rest.

Chas. Myers was called to the ministry in 1882, and under the direction of his father, brother Jonathan, he did considerable preaching for several years. He has done nothing of the kind now for a number of years. He is now in his senior year in the seminary at Oakland, and we hope to see good work done by him later on.

Brother Z. H. Copp came to California at the call of M. M. Eshelman to take charge of the "First Brethren church in Los Angeles." No such church was then in existence, but it was no doubt hoped there would be one soon. The hope has however not been realized, and Brother C. soon came north to Lathrop, where he was employed by the Mission Board for a time as State Evangelist, meeting with excellent success. He remained in the state about two years, preaching most of the time and returned east again in 1894.

Brother S. J. Harrison came in 1895 and was pastor for a year, of congregations at Lathrop, East Union, Ripon and Vernalis, after which he also returned to the east. Both he and his estimable wife are very kindly remembered by the people here, and their work lives, even though they have departed.

The preachers called from the east to assist in the camp meetings, generally remained several months, breaking the Bread of Life wherever the Mission Board directed. The first of these was Eld. Frank Myers, who came overland from Iowa in 1863. Then came Brother Bashor in 1870, and also in April 1887, he held revival services at Lathrop. Brother J. P. Brown held the camp meeting